

before it represents, as it is meant to do, the varying and changing environments of the national life of the past.

The Museum Schools Service The Museum Schools Service, financed by the Local Education Authorities and administered by the museum, became possible because of a provision in the Education Act of 1944. The Council eagerly accepted the opportunity it gave of extending the services the museum had always given to schools, though previously in a necessarily restricted way. The first appointments were made in 1949. In this, the jubilee year, there are five Schools Service Officers, one in each of the departments. The accommodation available at the Welsh Folk Museum does not as yet permit it to take part in the Service.

The Service provides specially prepared exhibits for distribution each term to such secondary schools in Wales as choose to have them. Well over half now do so. The exhibits are small enough to be easily portable and include exhibition cases, models, boxes of handling specimens, pictures, sets of illustrations and so on. In the middle of any term about 3,000 exhibits from the National Museum are to be found in schools in all parts of Wales from Holyhead to Chepstow, from Fishguard to Flint. By this means the museum reaches out to every part of its province and, in a country of poor communications, has a meaning in distant places where before it had little or none. For school groups who can visit the museum, arrangements are made for special guidance and specialised lessons.